

T H E
RAPE OF THE LOCK.
A N
HEROI-COMICAL
P O E M.
IN FIVE CANTOS.

Written By Mr. *POPE*.

— A tonsō est hoc nomen adepta capillo. OVID.

THE FIFTH EDITION.



L O N D O N.

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THE
KANTON LOCK

AND
HEROICOMICAL

P O E M

IN FIVE CANTOS
Written by Mr. Pope



LONDON
Printed by T. Ould
1733

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Mrs. ARABELLA FERMOR.

M A D A M,

IT will be in vain to deny that I have some value for this Piece, since I dedicate it to You. Yet you may bear me witness, it was intended only to divert a few young Ladies, who have good sense and good humour enough, to laugh not only at their Sex's little unguarded follies, but at their own. But as it was communicated with the air of a Secret, it soon found its way into the world. An imperfect Copy having been offer'd to a Bookseller, You had the Good-nature, for my sake, to consent to the Publication of one more correct: This I was forc'd to before I had executed half my design, for the *Machinery* was entirely wanting to compleat it.

The *Machinery*, Madam, is a term invented by the Criticks, to signify that part which the Deities, Angels, or Dæmons, are made to act in a Poem: For the ancient Poets are in one respect like many modern Ladies; let an Action be never so trivial in it self, they always make it appear of the utmost importance. These Machines I determin'd to raise on a very new and odd Foundation, the *Rosicrucian* doctrine of Spirits.

I know how disagreeable it is to make use of hard words before a Lady; but 'tis so much the concern of a Poet to have his Works understood,

and particularly by your Sex, that you must give me leave to explain two or three difficult Terms.

The *Rosicrucians* are a People I must bring you acquainted with. The best account I know of them is in a French Book call'd *Le Comte de Gabalis*, which both in its Title and Size is so like a *Novel*, that many of the Fair Sex have read it for one by mistake. According to these Gentlemen, the four Elements are inhabited by Spirits, which they call *Sylphs*, *Gnomes*, *Nymphs*, and *Salamanders*. The *Gnomes*, or Dæmons of Earth, delight in Mischiefs; but the *Sylphs*, whose habitation is Air, are the best condition'd creatures imaginable. For they say, any Mortals may enjoy the most intimate familiarities with these gentle Spirits, upon a condition very easie to all true *Adepts*, an inviolate preservation of Chastity.

As to the following Cantos, all the Passages of them are as fabulous, as the Vision at the beginning, or the Transformation at the end; [except the loss of your Hair, which I always name with reverence.] The Human Persons are as fictitious as the Airy ones; and the Character of *Belinda*, as it is now manag'd, resembles you in nothing but in Beauty.

If this Poem had as many Graces as there are in your Person, or in your Mind, yet I could never hope it should pass thro' the World half so uncensured as you have done. But let its fortune be what it will, mine is happy enough, to have given me this occasion of assuring you that I am, with the truest Esteem,

Madam,

Your Most Obedient

Humble Servant,

A. POPE.



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T H E
RAPE OF THE LOCK.
C A N T O I.



[springs,
H A T dire Offence from Am'rous causes
What mighty Quarrels rise from trivial
things,

I sing---This Verse to C---l, Muse! is duez
This, ev'n *Belinda* may vouchsafe to view:
Slight is the Subject, but not so the Praise, 5
If She inspire, and He approve my Lays.

Say what strange Motive, Goddess! cou'd compel
A well-bred *Lord* t'assault a gentle *Belle*?
Oh say what stranger Cause, yet unexplor'd,
Cou'd make a gentle *Belle* reject a *Lord*? 10
And dwells such Rage in softest Bosoms then?
And lodge such daring Souls in little Men?

Sol thro' white curtains did his beams display,
And op'd those Eyes which brighter shine than they;
Now *Shock* had giv'n himself the rowling shake,
And Nymphs prepar'd their *Chocolate* to take; 16
Thrice the wrought Slipper knock'd against the
ground,
And striking Watches the tenth Hour resound:
Belinda still her downy pillow prest,
Her Guardian *Sylph* prolong'd the balmy rest. 20

'Twas he had summon'd to her silent bed
 The morning Dream that hover'd o'er her head:
 A Youth more glitt'ring than a *Birth-night Beau* ,
 (That ev'n in slumber caus'd her cheek to glow)
 Seem'd to her ear his winning lips to lay , 25
 And thus in whispers said, or seem'd to say.

Fairest of Mortals, thou distinguish'd care
 Of thousand bright Inhabitants of Air !
 If e'er one Vision touch'd thy infant Thought ,
 Of all the Nurse and all the Priest have taught , 30
 Of airy Elves by moonlight shadows seen ,
 The silver token, and the circled green,
 Or Virgins visited by Angel-Pow'rs ,
 With Golden Crowns and wreaths of heav'nly Flow'rs,
 Hear and believe ! thy own Importance know , 35
 Nor bound thy narrow views to things below.
 Some secret Truths from learned Pride conceal'd ,
 To Maids alone and Children are reveal'd :
 What tho' no Credit doubting Wits may give ?
 The Fair and Innocent shall still believe. 40
 Know then, unnumber'd Spirits round thee fly ,
 The light *Militia* of the lower Sky ;
 These, tho' unseen, are ever on the wing,
 Hang o'er the *Box* , and hover round the *Ring* :
 Think what an Equipage thou hast in Air , 45
 And view with scorn *two Pages* and a *Chair*.
 As now your own, our Beings were of old ,
 And once inclos'd in Woman's beauteous mold ;
 Thence, by a soft transition , we repair
 From earthly vehicles to these of Air. 50
 Think not, when Woman's transient breath is fled,
 That all her Vanities at once are dead :
 Succeeding Vanities she still regards,
 And tho' she plays no more, o'erlooks the Cards.
 Her Joy in gilded Chariots, when alive , 55
 And love of *Ombre* , after Death survive.

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For when the Fair in all their pride expire,
 To their first Elements the Souls retire :
 The Sprights of fiery Termagants, in Flame
 Mount up, and take a *Salamander's* name. 60
 Soft yielding Minds to Water glide away,
 And sip with *Nymphs*, their elemental Tea.
 The graver Prude sinks downward to a *Gnome*,
 In search of mischief still on Earth to roam.
 The light Coquettes in *Sylphs* aloft repair, 65
 And sport and flutter in the fields of Air.

Know farther yet; Whoever fair and chaste
 Rejects Mankind, is by some *Sylph* embrac'd :
 For Spirits, freed from mortal laws, with ease
 Assume what Sexes and what Shapes they please. 70
 What guards the Purity of melting Maids,
 In Courtly Balls, and Midnight Masquerades,
 Safe from the treach'rous Friend and daring Spark,
 The Glance by Day, the whisper in the Dark ;
 When kind occasion prompts their warm desires, 75
 When Musick softens, and when Dancing fires ?
 'Tis but their *Sylph*, the wise Celestials know ;
 Tho' *Honour* is the word with Men below.

Some Nymphs there are, too conscious of their Face,
 For life predestin'd to the *Gnomes* Embrace. 80
 Who swell their prospects and exalt their Pride,
 When offers are disdain'd, and Love deny'd.
 Then gay Ideas crowd the vacant brain,
 While Peers and Dukes, and all their sweeping Train,
 And Garters, Stars, and Coronets appear, 85
 And in soft sounds, *Your Grace* salutes their ear.
 'Tis these that early taint the Female Soul,
 Instruct the eyes of young *Coquettes* to roll,
 Teach Infants Cheeks a bidden Blush to know,
 And little Hearts to flutter at a *Beau*. 90

Oft when the World imagine Women stray,
 The *Sylphs*: thro' mystick Mazes guide their way:
 Thro' all the giddy Circle they pursue,
 And old Impertinence expel by new.
 What tender Maid but must a Victim fall
 To one Man's Treat, but for another's Ball?
 When *Florio* speaks, what Virgin could withstand,
 If gentle *Damon* did not squeeze her hand?
 With varying Vanities, from ev'ry part,
 They shift the moving Toyshop of their Heart;
 Where Wigs with Wigs, with Sword-knots Sword-
 knots strive,
 Beaus banish Beaus, and Coaches Coaches drive.
 This erring Mortals Levity may call,
 Oh blind to Truth! the *Sylphs* contrive it all.

Of these am I, who thy Protection claim, 105
 A watchful Sprite, and *Ariel* is my name.
 Late, as I rang'd the Crystal Wilds of Air,
 In the clear Mirror of thy ruling *Star*
 I saw, alas! some dread Event impend,
 E're to the Main this morning's Sun descend. 110
 But Heav'n reveals not what, or how, or where:
 Warn'd by thy *Sylph*, oh Pious Maid beware!
 This to disclose is all thy Guardian can.
 Beware of all, but most beware of Man! 114

[long,
 He said; when *Shock*, who thought she slept too
 Leapt up, and wak'd his Mistress with his tongue.
 'Twas then *Belinda*! if Report say true,
 Thy eyes first open'd on a *Billet-doux*;
Wounds, *Charms*, and *Ardors*, were no sooner read,
 But all the Vision vanish'd from thy head. 120

And now, unveil'd, the *Toilet* stands display'd,
 Each Silver Vase in mystic order laid.

First,

First, rob'd in White, the Nymph intent adores
 With head uncover'd, the *Cosmetic* Pow'rs.
 A heav'nly Image in the Glass appears, 125
 To that she bends, to that her eyes she rears:
 Th' inferior Priestess, at her Altar's side,
 Trembling, begins the sacred Rites of Pride.
 Unnumber'd Treasures ope at once, and here
 The various Offerings of the World appear. 130
 From each she nicely culls with curious toil,
 And decks the Goddess with the glitt'ring Spoil.
 This Casket *India's* glowing Gems-unlocks,
 And all *Arabia* breaths from yonder Box.
 The Tortoise here and Elephant unite, 135
 Transform'd to Combs, the speckled and the white.
 Here Files of Pins extend their shining rows,
 Puffs, Powders, Patches, Bibles, Billet-doux.
 Now awful Beauty puts on all its Arms;
 The Fair each moment rises in her Charms, 140
 Repairs her Smiles, awakens ev'ry Grace,
 And calls forth all the wonders of her Face;
 Sees by degrees a purer Blush arise,
 And keener Lightnings quicken in her Eyes.
 The busy Sylphs surround their darling care; 145
 These set the Head, and those divide the Hair,
 Some fold the Sleeve, while others plait the Gown;
 And *Betty's* prais'd for labours not her own. 148





T H E

RAPE OF THE LOCK.

CANTO II.

NOT with more Glories, in th' Ethereal plain,
 The Sun first rises o'er the purpled Main,
 Than issuing forth, the Rival of his Beams
 Lanch'd on the bosom of the Silver *Thames*,
 Fair Nymphs, and well-drest Youths around her shone,
 But ev'ry Eye was fixt on her alone. 6
 On her white breast a sparkling *Cross* she wore,
 Which *Jews* might kiss, and Infidels adore.
 Her lively Looks a sprightly Mind disclose,
 Quick as her Eyes, and as unfix'd as those: 10
 Favours to none, to all she Smiles extends,
 Oft she rejects, but never once offends.
 Bright as the Sun, her Eyes the Gazers strike,
 And, like the Sun, they shine on all alike.
 Yet graceful ease, and sweetness void of Pride, 15
 Might hide her faults, if *Belles* had faults to hide.
 If to her share some Female Errors fall,
 Look on her Face, and you'll forget 'em all.

This Nymph, to the destruction of Mankind,
 Nourish'd two Locks, which graceful hung behind
 In equal Curls, and well conspir'd to deck 21
 With shining Ringlets her smooth Iv'ry Neck.
 Love in these Labyrinths his Slaves detains,
 And mighty Hearts are held in slender Chains.

With

With hairy Sprindges we the Birds betray; 25
 Slight Lines of hair surprize the Finny Prey;
 Fair Tresses Man's Imperial Race insnare;
 And Beauty draws us with a single Hair.

Th' adventrous *Baron* the bright Locks admir'd,
 He saw, he wish'd, and to the Prize aspir'd: 30
 Resolv'd to win, he meditates the way,
 By Force to ravish, or by Fraud betray:
 For when Success a Lover's toil attends,
 Few ask, if Fraud or Force attain'd his ends.

For this, e'er *Phæbus* rose, he had implor'd 35
 Propitious Heav'n, and ev'ry Pow'r ador'd,
 But chiefly *Love* to *Love* an Altar built,
 Of twelve yast *French* Romances, neatly gilt.
 There lay the Sword-knot *Sylvia's* hands had sown,
 With *Flavia's* Busk that oft had rapp'd his own: 40
 A Fan, a Garter, half a pair of Gloves;
 And all the Trophies of his former Loves.
 With tender *Billet-doux* he lights the Pyre,
 And breaths three am'rous Sighs to raise the Fire.
 Then prostrate falls, and begs with ardent eyes 45
 Soon to obtain, and long possess the Prize:
 The Pow'rs gave ear, and granted half his Pray'r,
 The rest, the Winds dispers'd in empty Air.

But now secure the painted Vessel glides,
 The Sun beams trembling on the floating tydes, 50
 While melting Musick steals upon the sky,
 And soften'd sounds along the waters die.
 Smooth flow the Waves, the Zephyrs gently play,
Belinda smil'd, and all the World was gay.
 All but the *Sylph* With careful thoughts oppress'd,
 Th' impending Woe fate heavy on his breast. 56
 He summons strait his Denizens of Air;
 The lucid Squadrons round the Sails repair:

Soft

Soft o'er the Shrouds aerial whispers breath,
 That seem'd but Zephyrs to the Train beneath. 70
 Some to the Sun their Insect-Wings unfold,
 Waft on the Breeze, or sink in Clouds of Gold.
 Transparent Forms, too fine for mortal sight,
 Their fluid bodies half dissolv'd in Light.
 Loose to the Wind their airy Garments flew, 75
 Thin glitt'ring textures of the filmy Dew;
 Dipt in the richest tincture of the Skies,
 Where Light disports in ever-mingling Dies,
 While ev'ry beam new transient Colours flings, 79
 Colours that change whene'er they wave their Wings.
 Amid the Circle, on the gilded Mast,
 Superior by the Head, was *Ariel* plac'd;
 His purple pinions opening to the Sun,
 He rais'd his azure Wand, and thus begun. 84

Ye *Sylphs* and *Sylphids*, to your Chief give ear,
Fays, *Fairies*, *Genii*, *Elves*, and *Demons* hear!
 Ye know the Spheres and various Tasks assign'd,
 By Laws Eternal, to th' Aerial kind.
 Some in the fields of purest *Æther* play,
 And bask and whiten in the blaze of Day. 90
 Some guide the course of wandring Orbs on high,
 Or roll the Planets thro' the boundless Sky.
 Some less refin'd, beneath the Moon's pale Light
 Hover, and catch the shooting Stars by night;
 Or suck the Mists in grosser Air below, 95
 Or dip their Pinions in the painted Bow,
 Or brew fierce Tempests on the wintry Main,
 Or on the Glebe distill the kindly Rain.
 Others on Earth o'er Humane Race preside, 99
 Watch all their ways, and all their actions guide:
 Of these the Chief the Care of Nations own,
 And guard with Arms Divine the *British Throne*.

Our

Our humbler Province is to tend the Fair,
 Not a less pleasing, tho' less glorious Care.
 To save the Powder from too rude a Gale, 105
 Nor let th'imprison'd Essences exhale,
 To draw fresh Colours from the vernal Flow'rs,
 To steal from Rainbows, ere they drop in show'rs,
 A brighter Wash; to curl their waving Hairs,
 Assist their Blushes, and inspire their Airs; 110
 Nay oft, in Dreams, Invention we bestow,
 To change a Flounce, or add a Furbelo.

This day, black Omens threat the brightest Fair
 That e'er deserv'd a watchful Spirit's care;
 Some dire Disaster, or by Force, or Slight, 115
 But what, or where, the Fates have wrapt in night.
 Whether the Nymph shall break *Diana's* Law,
 Or some frail *China* Jar receive a flaw,
 Or stain her Honour, or her new Brocade,
 Forget her Pray'rs, or miss a Masquerade, 120
 Or lose her Heart, or Necklace, at a Ball;
 Or whether Heav'n has doom'd that *Shock* must fall.
 Hasten then ye Spirits! to your Charge repair;
 The flutt'ring Fan be *Zephyretta's* Care;
 The Drops to thee, *Brillante*, we consign; 125
 And *Momentilla*, let the Watch be thine;
 Do thou, *Crispissa*, tend her fav'rite Lock;
Ariel himself shall be the Guard of *Shock*.

To Fifty chosen *Sylphs*, of special note,
 We trust th' important charge, the *Petticoat*: 130
 Oft have we known that sev'nfold fence to fail,
 Tho' stiff with hoops, and arm'd with ribs of Whale.
 Form a strong Line about the silver bound,
 And guard the wide Circumference around.

Whatever Spirit, careless of his Charge, 135
 His Post neglects, or leaves the Fair at large,
 Shall

Shall feel sharp Vengeance soon o'ertake his Sins;
 Be stopt in *Vials*, or transfixt with *Pins*;
 Or plung'd in Lakes of bitter *Washes* lie,
 Or wedg'd whole Ages in a *Bodkin's* eye: 140
Gums and *Pomatum's* shall his flight restrain,
 While clog'd he beats his silken *Wings* in vain;
 Or *Alom-Scypticks* with contracting Power
 Shrink his thin *Essence* like a rivell'd Flower.
 Or as *Ixion* fix'd, the Wretch shall feel 145
 The giddy Motion of the whirling Mill,
 Midst Fumes of burning *Chocolate* shall glow,
 And tremble at the *Sea* that froaths below !

He spoke; the *Spirits* from the *Sails* descend;
 Some, orb in orb, around the *Nymph* extend,
 Some thrid the mazy *Ringlets* of her *Hair*,
 Some hang upon the *Pendants* of her *Ear*;
 With beating hearts the dire *Event* they wait,
 Anxious, and trembling for the birth of *Fate*. 154



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T H E

RAPE OF THE LOCK.

CANTO III.

[Flow'rs,
CLOSE by those Meads for ever crown'd with
 Where *Thames* with pride surveys his rising
 Towr's,

There stands a Structure of Majestick Fame,
 Which from the neighb'ring *Hampton* takes it name.
 Here *Britain's* Statesmen oft the fall foredoom
 Of foreign Tyrants, and of Nymphs at home;
 Here Thou, great *Anna*! whom three Realms obey;
 Dost sometimes Counsel take---and sometimes *Tea*.

Hither the Heroes and the Nymphs resort,
 To taste a while the pleasures of a Court; 10
 In various talk th' instructive hours they pass,
 Who gave a *Ball*, or paid the *Visit* last:
 One speaks the glory of the *British Queen*,
 And one describes a charming *Indian Screen*;
 A third interprets motions, looks, and eyes; 15
 At ev'ry word a Reputation dies.
Snuff, or the *Fan*, supply each pause of chat,
 With singing, laughing, ogling, and all that.

Mean while declining from the noon of day,
 The Sun obliquely shoots his burning ray: 20

The

The hungry Judges soon the Sentence sign,
 And Wretches hang that Jury-men may dine;
 The Merchant from th' *Exchange* returns in peace,
 And the long labours of the *Toilette* cease---
Belinda now, whom thirst of Fame invites, 25
 Burns to encounter two adventrous Knights,
 At *Ombre* singly to decide their Doom;
 And swells her breast with Conquests yet to come.
 Strait the three Bands prepare in Arms to join,
 Each Band the number of the Sacred Nine. 30
 Soon as she spreads her hand, th' Aerial Guard
 Descend, and sit on each important Card :
 First *Ariel* perch'd upon a *Matadore*,
 Then each, according to the Rank they bore;
 For *Sylphs*, yet mindful of their ancient race, 35
 Are, as when Women, wondrous fond of place.

Behold, four *Kings* in Majesty rever'd,
 With hoary whiskers and a forky beard :
 And four fair *Queens* whose hands sustain a flow'r,
 Th' expressive Emblem of their softer pow'r; 40
 Four *Knaves* in garbs succinct, a trusty band,
 Caps on their heads, and halberds in their hand;
 And particolour'd Troops, a shining train,
 Draw forth to combat on the Velvet Plain. 44

The skilful Nymph reviews her force with care;
Let Spades be Trumps, she said, and Trumps they were
 Now move to War her sable *Matadores*,
 In show like Leaders of the swarthy *Moors*.
Spadillio first, unconquerable Lord ! 48
 Led off two captive Trumps, and swept the Board
 As many more *Manillio* forc'd to yield,
 And march'd a Victor from the verdant Field.
 Him *Rasto* follow'd, but his Fate more hard
 Gain'd but one Trump and one *Plebeian* Card.
 With his broad sabre next, a Chief in years, 52
 The hoary Majesty of *Spades* appears;

Puts forth one manly leg, to fight reveal'd;
 The rest his many-colour'd Robe conceal'd.
 The Rebel-Knave, that dares his Prince engage,
 Proves the just victim of his Royal rage. 60
 Ev'n mighty Pam that Kings and Queens o'erthrew;
 And mow'd down Armies in the Fights of Lu
 Sad chance of War! now, destitute of aid;
 Falls undistinguish'd by the Victor Spade!

Thus far both Armies to Belinda yield; 65
 Now to the Baron Fate inclines the Field.
 His warlike Amazon her Host invades,
 Th' Imperial Consort of the Crown of Spades:
 The Club's black Tyrant first her Victim dy'd,
 Spite of his haughty mien, and barb'rous pride: 70
 What boots the Regal Circle on his head,
 His Giant limbs in State unwieldly spread?
 That long behind he trails his pompous Robe,
 And of all Monarchs only grasps the Globe?

The Baron now his Diamonds pours apace; 75
 Th' embroider'd King who shows but half his face,
 And his refulgent Queen, with pow'rs combin'd,
 Of broken Troops an easie conquest find.
 Clubs, Diamonds, Hearts, in wild disorder seen,
 With throngs promiscuous strow the level Green.
 Thus when dispers'd a routed Army runs, 81
 Of Asia's Troops, and Africk's fable Sons,
 With like Confusion different Nations fly,
 In various habits and of various dye,
 The pierc'd Battalions dis-united fall, 85
 In heaps on heaps; one Fate o'erwhelms them all.

The Knave of Diamonds now exerts his arts,
 And wins (oh shameful chance!) the Queen of Hearts!
 At this, the Blood the Virgin's cheek forsook,
 A livid Paleness spreads o'er all her look; 90

B She

She sees, and trembles at th' approaching ill,
 Just in the Jaws of Ruin, and *Codille*.
 And now, (as oft in some distemper'd State)
 On one nice *Trick* depends the gen'ral Fate,
 An *Ace* of Hearts steps forth: The *King* unseen 95
 Lurk'd in her hand, and mourn'd his captive *Queen*.
 He springs to Vengeance with an eager pace,
 And fall's like Thunder on the prostrate *Ace*.
 The Nymph exulting fills with shouts the sky,
 The walls, the woods, and long canals reply. 100

Oh thoughtless mortals! ever blind to Fate,
 Too soon dejected, and too soon elate!
 Sudden these honours shall be snatch'd away,
 And curs'd for ever this victorious day. 104

For lo! the Board with Cups and Spoons is crown'd,
 The Berries crackle, and the Mill turns round.
 On shining Altars of *Japan* they raise
 The silver Lamp, and fiery spirits blaze.
 From silver spouts the grateful liquors glide,
 And *China's* Earth receive the smoking tyde. 110
 At once they gratify their Scent and Taste,
 While frequent cups prolong the rich repast.
 Strait hover round the Fair her Airy Band;
 Some, as she sipp'd, the fuming liquor fann'd,
 Some o'er her Lap their careful plumes display'd, 115
 Trembling, and conscious of the rich Brocade.
Coffee, (which makes the Politician wise,
 And see thro' all things with his half shut eyes)
 Sent up in vapours to the *Baron's* Brain
 New Stratagems, the radiant Lock to gain. 120
 Ah cease rash Youth! desist e'er 'tis too late,
 Fear the just Gods, and think of * *Scylla's* Fate!
 Chang'd to a Bird, and sent to flit in Air,
 She dearly pays for *Nisus'* injur'd Hair! 124

But

* *Vile* Ovid, *Metam.* 8.

But when to mischief Mortals bend their mind,
 How soon fit instruments of ill they find?
 Just then, *Clarissa* drew with tempting grace
 A two-edg'd weapon from her shining case:
 So Ladies in Romance assist their Knight,
 Present their Spear, and arm him for the Fight. 130
 He takes the gift with rev'rence, and extends
 The little Engine on his finger's ends;
 This just behind *Belinda's* Neck he spread,
 As o'er the fragrant steams she bends her head.
 Swift to the Lock a thousand Sprights repair, 135
 A thousand wings, by turns, blow back the Hair,
 And thrice they twitch'd the Diamond in her Ear,
 Thrice she look'd back, and thrice the Foe drew near.
 Just in that instant, anxious *Ariel* sought
 The close recesses of the Virgin's thought, 140
 As on the Nosegay in her breast reclin'd,
 He watch'd th' Ideas rising in her Mind:
 Sudden he view'd, in spite of all her art,
 An Earthly Lover lurking at her Heart.
 Amaz'd, confus'd, he found his pow'r expir'd,
 Resign'd to Fate, and with a sigh retir'd. 146

The Peer now spreads the glitt'ring *Forfex* wide,
 T'inclose the Lock; now joins it, to divide.
 Ev'n then, before the fatal Engine clos'd,
 A wretched *Sylph* too fondly interpos'd; 150
 Fate urg'd the Sheers, and cut the *Sylph* in twain,
 (* But Airy Substance soon unites again)
 The meeting Points the sacred Hair dis sever
 From the fair Head, for ever and for ever! 154

Then flash'd the living Lightnings from her Eyes,
 And screams of Horror rend th' affrighted Skies.
 Not louder shrieks by Dames to Heav'n are cast,
 When Husbands or when Monkeys breath their last,

B 2

Or

* See Milton, lib. 6.

Or when rich *China* Vessels, fal'n from high,
In glittering dust and painted fragments lie! 160

Let Wreaths of Triumph now my Temples twine,
(The Victor cry'd) the glorious Prize is mine!
While Fish in streams, or Birds delight in air,
Or in a Coach and Six the *British* Fair,
As long as *Atalantis* shall be read, 165
Or the small pillow grace a Lady's bed,
While *Visits* shall be paid on solemn days,
When numerous Wax-lights in bright order blaze,
While Nymphs take Treats, or Assignations give,
So long my Honour, Name, and Praise shall live! 170
[date,

What Time wou'd spare, from Steel receives its
And Monuments, like Men, submit to Fate!
Steel did the labour of the Gods destroy,
And strike to dust th' Imperial Tow'rs of *Troy*;
Steel cou'd the works of mortal Pride confound, 175
And hew Triumphal Arches to the ground. [feel
What wonder then, fair Nymph! thy Hairs shou'd
The conqu'ring Force of unresisted Steel?





T H E

RAPE OF THE LOCK.

CANTO IV.

BUt anxious cares the pensive Nymph oppress,
 And secret Passions labour'd in her Breast.
 Not youthful Kings in Battel seiz'd alive,
 Not scornful Virgins who their Charms survive,
 Not ardent Lovers robb'd of all their blifs, 5
 Not ancient Ladies when refus'd a Kifs,
 Not Tyrants fierce that unrepenting die,
 Not *Cynthia* when her *Manteau's* pinn'd awry,
 E'er felt such Rage, Resentment and Despair,
 As Thou, sad Virgin! for thy ravish'd Hair. 10

For, that sad moment, when the *Sylphs* withdrew,
 And *Ariel* weeping from *Belinda* flew,
Umbriel, a dusky melancholy Spright,
 As ever sully'd the fair face of light,
 Down to the central Earth, his proper scene, 15
 Repairs to search the gloomy Cave of *Spleen*.

Swift on his sooty Pinions flits the *Gnome*,
 And in a Vapour reach'd the dismal Dome.
 No cheerful breeze this sullen region knows,
 The dreaded *East* is all the wind that blows. 20
 Here, in a Grotto, sheltred close from air,
 And screen'd in Shades from day's detested glare,
 She

B 3

She

She sighs for ever on her pensive bed,
Pain at her side, and *Languor* at her head. 24

Two Handmaids wait the Throne: alike in place,
 But differing far in figure and in face.
 Here stood *Ill-nature* like an *ancient Maid*,
 Her wrinkled form in *Black* and *White* array'd;
 With store of Pray'rs, for mornings, nights, & noons
 Her hand is fill'd; her bosom with *Lampoons*. 30

There *Affectation* with a sickly mien
 Shows in her cheek the *Roses* of eighteen,
 Practis'd to lisp, and hang the head aside,
 Faints into *Airs*, and languishes with *Pride* :
 On the rich *Quilt* sinks with becoming woe, 35
 Wrapt in a *Gown*, for *Sickness*, and for *Show*.
 The *Fair* ones feel such *Maladies* as these,
 When each new *Night-dress* gives a new *Disease*.

A constant *Vapour* o'er the *Palace* flies;
 Strange *Phantoms* rising as the *mists* arise; 40
 Dreadful, as *Hermit's* dreams in haunted shades,
 Or bright as *Visions* of expiring *Maids*.
 Now glaring *Fiends*, and *Snakes* on rolling *Spires*,
 Pale *Spectres*, gaping *Tombs*, and purple *Fires*;
 Now *Lakes* of liquid *Gold*, *Elysian* *Scenes*, 45
 And *Crystal Domes*, and *Angels* in *Machines*.

Unnumber'd throngs on ev'ry side are seen
 Of *Bodies* chang'd to various forms by *Spleen*.
 Here living *Teapots* stand, one arm held out,
 One bent; the handle this, and that the spout : 50
 A *Pipkin* there like *Homer's Tripod* walks;
 Here sighs a *Jar*, and there a *Goose-pye* talks:
 Men prove with child, as pow'ful *Fancy* works,
 And *Maids* turn'd *bottels*, call aloud for *corks*.

Safe past the *Gnome* thro' this fantastick Band, 55
 A Branch of healing *Spleenwort* in his hand.
 Then thus address the Pow'r. Hail wayward Queen;
 Who rule the Sex to Fifty from Fifteen,
 Parent of Vapours and of Female Wit,
 Who give th' *Hysteric* or *Poetic* Fit, 60
 On various Tempers act by various ways,
 Make some take Physick, others scribble Plays;
 Who cause the Proud their Visits to delay,
 And send the Godly in a pett, to pray.
 A Nymph there is, that all thy Pow'r disdains, 65
 And thousands more in equal mirth maintains.
 But oh! if e'er thy *Gnome* could spoil a Grace,
 Or raise a Pimple on a beauteous Face,
 Like Citron-Waters Matron's cheeks inflame,
 Or change Complexions at a losing Game; 70
 If e'er with airy horns I planted heads,
 Or rumbled petticoats, or tumbled beds,
 Or cau'd suspicion when no Soul was rude,
 Or discompos'd the Head-dress of a Prude,
 Or e'er to costive Lap-dog gave Disease, 75
 Which not the tears of brightest eyes could ease:
 Hear me, and touch *Belinda* with chagrin;
 That single act gives half the World the Spleen.

The Goddess with a discontented air
 Seems to reject him, tho' she grants his pray'r. 80
 A wondrous Bag with both her hands she binds,
 Like that where once *Ulysses* held the Winds;
 There she collects the force of female Lungs,
 Sighs, Sobs, and Passions, and the War of Tongues.
 A Vial next she fills with fainting Fears, 85
 Soft Sorrows, melting Grievs, and flowing Tears.
 The *Gnome* rejoicing bears her gift away,
 Spreads his black Wings, and slowly mounts to day.

Sunk in *Thalestris'* arms the Nymph he found,
 Her eyes dejected and her hair unbound. 99
 Full o'er their heads the swelling bag he rent,
 And all the Furies issued at the vent.
Belinda burns with more than mortal Ire,
 And fierce *Thalestris* fans the rising fire. 94
 O wretched Maid! she spread her hands, and cry'd;
 (While *Hampton's* Ecchos, wretched Maid reply'd)
 Was it for this you took such constant care
 The *Boukin*, *Comb*, and *Essence* to prepare?
 For this your Locks in Paper-durance bound?
 For this with tort'ring Irons wreath'd around? 100
 For this with Fillets strain'd your tender head,
 And bravely bore the double loads of Lead?
 Gods! shall the Ravisher display your Hair,
 While the Fops envy, and the Ladies stare!
Honour forbid! at whose unrival'd Shrine 105
 Ease, Pleasure, Virtue, all, our Sex resign.
 Methinks already I your tears survey,
 Already hear the horrid things they say;
 Already see you a degraded Toaft,
 And all your Honour in a whisper lost! 110
 How shall I, then, your helpless fame defend?
 'Twill then be Infamy to seem your Friend!
 And shall this Prize, th' inestimable Prize,
 Expos'd thro' Crystal to the gazing eyes,
 And heighten'd by the Diamond's circling rays,
 On that Rapacious hand for ever blaze?
 Sooner shall grass in *Hide-Park Circus* grow,
 And Wits take lodgings in the sound of *Bow*;
 Sooner let Earth, Air, Sea, to *Chaos* fall, 119
 Men, Monkies, Lap-dogs, Parrots, perish all!

She said; then raging to *Sir Plume* repairs,
 And bids her *Beau* demand the precious Hairs.
 (*Sir Plume*, of *Amber Snuff-box* justly vain,
 And the nice conduct of a *Clouded Cane*)

With

With earnest eyes, and round unthinking face,
He first the Snuff-box open'd, then the Case,
And thus broke out-- " My Lord, why, what the
Devil ?

" Z—ds! damn the Lock ! fore Gad, you must be
civil !

" Plague on't ! 'tis past a Jest--nay prithee, Pox!
" Give her the Hair--he spoke, and rapp'd his Box. 130

It grieves me much (reply'd the Peer again)
Who speaks so well shou'd ever speak in vain.
But * by this Lock, this sacred Lock I swear,
(Which never more shall join its parted Hair,
Which never more its Honours shall renew,
Clipt from the lovely head where once it grew)
That while my Nostrils draw the vital air,
This hand, which won it, shall for ever wear.
He spoke, and speaking in proud Triumph spread
The long-contended Honours of her Head. 140

But *Umbriel*, hateful *Gnome* ! forbears not so ;
He breaks the Vial whence the Sorrows flow.
Then see ! the *Nymph* in beauteous Grief appears,
Her Eyes half languishing, half drown'd in Tears,
On her heav'd Bosom hung her drooping Head,
Which, with a Sigh, she rais'd ; and thus she said.

For ever curs'd be this detested day,
Which snatch'd my best, my fav'rite Curl away !
Happy ! ah ten times happy, had I been,
If *Hampton-Court* these eyes had never seen ! 150
Yet am not I the first mistaken Maid,
By love of *Courts* to num'rous Ills betray'd.
Oh had I rather un-admir'd remain'd
In some lone Isle, or distant *Northern* land ;

B 5

Where

* In allusion to Achilles's Oath in Homer. Il. 1.

Where the gilt *Chariot* never mark'd the way,
 Where none learn *Ombra*, none e'er taste *Bohea*!
 There kept my Charms conceal'd from mortal eye,
 Like *Roses* that in desarts bloom and die.
 What mov'd my mind with youthful Lords to rome?
 O had I stay'd, and said my Pray'rs at home! 160
 'Twas this, the morning *Omens* did foretel;
 Thrice from my trembling hand the *Patch-box* fell;
 The tot'ring *China* shook without a wind,
 Nay *Poll* fate mute, and *Shock* was most unkind!
 A *Sylph* too warn'd me of the threats of Fate,
 In mystic Visions, now believ'd too late!
 See the poor remnants of this slighted Hair!
 My hands shall rend what ev'n thy own did spare.
 This, in two fable Ringlets taught to break,
 Once gave new beauties to the snowie Neck. 170
 The Sister-Lock now sits uncouth, alone,
 And in its fellow's Fate foresees it own;
 Uncurl'd it hangs, the fatal sheers demands,
 And tempts once more thy sacrilegious hands.
 Oh hadst thou, Cruel! been content to seize
 Hairs less in fight, or any Hairs but these! 176



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T H E
 RAPE OF THE LOCK.
 CANTO V.

SHE said: the pitying Audience melt in tears,
 But *Fate* and *Jove* had stopp'd the *Baron's* ears.
 In vain *Thalestris* with reproach assails,
 For who can move when fair *Belinda* fails?
 Not half so fixt the *Trojan* cou'd remain, 5
 While *Anna* begg'd and *Dido* rag'd in vain.
 To Arms, to Arms! the bold *Thalestris* cries,
 And swift as Lightning to the Combat flies.
 All side in Parties, and begin th' Attack;
 Fans clap, Silks ruffle, and tough Whalebones crack;
 Hero's and Heroin's shouts confus'dly rise, 11
 And base, and treble voices strike the Skies.
 No common Weapons in their hands are found,
 Like Gods they fight, nor dread a mortal Wound:

* So when bold *Homer* makes the Gods engage,
 And heav'nly breasts with human Passions rage; 16
 'Gainst *Pallas*, *Mars*; *Latona*, *Hermes*, arms;
 And all *Olympus* rings with loud Alarms.
Jove's Thunder roars, Heav'n trembles all around;
 Blue *Neptune* storms, the bellowing deeps resound; 20
Earth shakes her nodding Tow'rs, the ground gives
 And the pale Ghosts start at the flash of Day! [way:

Triumphant *Umbriel* on a sconce's height
 Clapt his glad Wings, and sate to view the Fight,
 Propt

* *Homer. Il. 20.*

Propt on their Bodkin spears the Sprights survey 25
The growing Combat, or assist the Fray.

While thro' the Press enrag'd *Thalestris* flies,
And scatters Deaths around from both her eyes,
A *Beau* and *Witling* perish'd in the throng,
One dy'd in *Metaphor*, and one in *Song*. 30
O cruel *Nymph*! a living *Death* I bear,
Cry'd *Dapperwit*, and sunk beside his chair.
A mournful glance *Sir Fopling* upwards cast;
* *Those Eyes are made so killing* --- was his last.
Thus on *Meander's* flow'ry margin lies 35
Th' expiring *Swan*, and as he sings he dies.

As bold *Sir Plume* had drawn *Clarissa* down,
Chloe stept in, and kill'd him with a frown;
She smil'd to see the doughty *Hero* slain,
But at her smile the *Beau* reviv'd again. 40

† Now *Jove* suspends his golden Scales in Air,
Weighs the Mens Wits against the Lady's Hair;
The doubtful Beam long nods from side to side;
At length the Wits mount up, the Hairs subside.

See fierce *Belinda* on the *Baron* flies, 45
With more than usual lightning in her eyes;
Nor fear'd the Chief th' unequal Fight to try,
Who sought no more than on his Foe to die.
But this bold Lord, with manly strength endu'd,
She with one finger and a thumb subdu'd: 50
Just where the breath of life his Nostrils drew,
A charge of *Snuff* the wily *Virgin* threw;
The *Gnomes* direct, to ev'ry *Atome* just,
The pungent grains of titillating dust;
Sudden, with starting tears each eye o'erflows,
And the high *Dome* re-echoes to his Nose. 56

Now

* A Song in the Opera of *Camilla*.

† *Vil.* *Homer. Il. 22.* & *Virg. En. 12.*

Now meet thy Fate, th' incens'd Virago cry'd,
And drew a deadly *Bodkin* from her side.

(* The same, his ancient personage to deck,
Her great great Grandfire wore about his neck 60
In three *Seal-Rings*; which after melted down,
Form'd a vast *Buckle* for his Widow's Gown :
Her infant Grandame's *Whistle* next it grew,
The *Bells* she gingled, and the *Whistle* blew;
Then in a *Bodkin* grac'd her Mother's Hairs, 65
Which long she wore, and now *Belinda* wears.)

Boast not my fall (he cry'd) insulting Foe!
Thou by some other shalt be laid as low.
Nor think, to die dejects my lofty mind :
All that I dread, is leaving you behind! 70
Rather than so, ah let me still survive,
And burn in *Cupid's* Flames, --- but burn alive.

Restore the Lock! she cries, & all around
Restore the Lock! the vaulted roofs rebound.
Not fierce *Othello* in so loud a strain 75
Roar'd for the Handkerchief that caus'd his pain.
But see how oft ambitious aims are cross'd,
And Chiefs contend 'till all the Prize is lost !
The Lock, obtain'd with guilt, and kept with pain,
In ev'ry place is fought, but fought in vain. 80
With such a Prize no Mortal must be blest,
So Heav'n decrees! with Heav'n who can contest?

Some thought it mounted to the Lunar Sphere,
† Since all things lost on Earth, are treasur'd there.
There Heroe's Wits are kept in pondrous Vases,
And Beau's in *Snuff boxes* and *Tweezer-Cases*.
There broken Vows, and Death-bed Alms are found,
And Lovers Hearts with Ends of Riband bound;

The

* In Imitation of the Progress of Agamemnon's Scepter in
Homer. Il. 2.

† Vid. Ariosto. Canto 34.

The Courtiers Promises, and Sick Man's Pray'rs,
 The Smiles of Harlots, and the Tears of Heirs, 90
 Cages for Gnats, and Chains to Yoak a Flea;
 Dry'd Butterflies, and Tomes of Casuistry.

But trust the Muse --- she saw it upward rise,
 Tho' mark'd by none but quick Poetick Eyes:
 (So *Rome's* great Founder to the Heav'ns withdrew,
 To *Proculus* alone confess'd in view.) 96
 A sudden Star, it shot thro' liquid air,
 And drew behind a radiant *Trail of Hair*.
 Not *Berenice's* Locks first rose so bright,
 The Skies bespangling with dishevel'd light. 100
 The *Sylphs* behold it kindling as it flies,
 And pleas'd pursue its progress thro' the Skies.

This the *Beau-monde* shall from the *Mall* survey,
 And hail with Musick its propitious Ray.
 This, the blest Lover shall for *Venus* take, 105
 And send up Vows from *Rosamonda's* Lake.
 This *Partridge* soon shall view in cloudless skies,
 When next he looks thro' *Galileo's* Eyes;
 And hence th' egregious Wizard shall foredoom
 The Fate of *Louis*, and the Fall of *Rome*. 110

[Hair
 Then cease, bright Nymph! to mourn the ravish'd
 Which adds new glory to the shining Sphere!
 Not all the Tresses that fair Head can boast
 Shall draw such Envy as the Lock you lost.
 For, after all the Murders of your Eye, 115
 When, after Millions slain, your self shall die;
 When those fair Suns shall set, as set they must,
 And all those Tresses shall be laid in dust;
This Lock, the Muse shall consecrate to Fame,
 And mid' st the Stars inscribe *Belinda's* Name! 120

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